(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या हैं और सरकार की इस बारे में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(ग) क्या दूरसंचार विशेषज्ञों ने यह बताया है कि दूरसंचार के किन-किन प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में दूरसंचार सेवाओं का उदारीकरण किया जाये ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) से (घ) दूर संचार सेवा उदारीकरण विश्व व्यापी सतत प्रक्रिया है और इस मामले में कई विशेषज्ञों ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं । तथापि, भारत में दूरसंचार सेवाओं में उदारीकरण 13 मई, 1994 को संसद में रखी गई राष्ट्रीय दूरसंचार नीति का परिणाम है ।

Guidelines for bidders of basic and cellular telephone services

12. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governments decision regarding guidelines for bidders of basic and cellular telephone services goes against Indian firms; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan for reviewing the guidelines to make Indian firms competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of above.

Pilot projects for telecom network

13. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved pilot projects for telecommunication network, particularly those of foreign countries;

(b) whether Government have received applications for similar projects from Indian telecommunication companies;

(c) whether Government are likely to lose control on telecommunication services in sanctioning the projects of foreign companies; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Government has issued Letter of Intent for a Pilot project by an Indian company which is a joint venture between a foreign company and an Indian company.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) National interests will be taken care of if sanctions are issued for such projects.

Complaints against disconnection of telephones in Calcutta

14. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Telephones have been resorting to illegal and irregular disconnection of subscribers' telephones due to lapses in its Accounts department;

(b) whether the Calcutta Telephones have received a number of complaints against such irregular disconnections from the subscribers in the past one year;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to redress the grievances of the affected subscribers; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The

required information has been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of more postal division in Orissa

15. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be plaased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some new postal divisions in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of postal divisions set up in Orissa at present; and

(c) the new postal divisions proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present eighteen Postal Divisions are functioning in Orissa.

(c) The question does not arise.

Linking of Cuttack and Bhubanaeshwar to local calls

16. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to replace the STD call system prevailing at present between Cuttack and Bhubaneshwar city in Orissa with local call system;

(b) whether the proposal given by the State Government in this regard has been pending since long; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Reducing money order charges

17. SHRI YEERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce Money Order charges for amounts less than Rs. 1,500/-

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that charges for Money Orders have gone up steeply in the last few years; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to reduce such charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Money Order Service is already being provided at subsidised rates. No further reduction of the money order charges is justified.

(c) The present rate of Money Order charges are effective from 11th June, 1990 and there has been no revision thereafter.

(d) Does not arise.

Delivery of Monty Orders

18. SHRI YEERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal services have updated present system to ensure accurate and speedy delivery of money orders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this system is operational in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) and (b) In order to provide speedy and more effective money order service, the Department